

One day little Ann was watching her mother do dishes. Ann suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out on her brunette head. Ann looked at her mother and asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Ann's mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me unhappy or cry, one of my hairs turns white." Ann thought about this revelation for awhile and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of Grandma's hairs are white?"

Our ACTIONS have an impact on others. Our BEHAVIOR makes a difference.

In the 1st Reading listen to the VERBS: OBSERVE, DO, KEEP, HOLD. "OBSERVE what is right. DO what is just. KEEP the Sabbath free from profanation. HOLD to my covenant."

When we ACT in such fashion there is blessing. There is joy. There is a transformation that occurs within us.

In the Gospel the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus. In so doing she is breaking social norms both as a foreigner and as a woman interacting with a man. The Canaanite woman is a person of action. What she is doing is not for herself. It is for her daughter who is suffering from torment by a demon. This mother will DO anything for her daughter to be healed.

Jesus responds to this woman of courage, of daring, of selflessness by bantering with her. She reciprocates with a playful wit that impresses Jesus. Jesus responds with largesse of heart. He heals the woman's daughter.

My sisters and brother: This week take initiative and action. See what good we can do. Perform random acts of kindness. Speak words of praise, gratitude and appreciation. Then at the end of our day, as we drift off to sleep, we will have inner peace. And we will know the truth: WE did NOT bring about the whitening of anyone's hair!